

1950.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

DARTMOUTH AND TOTNES

PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY



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Members :

S. SCADDING, ESQ., Stoke Gabriel
C. W. ALEXANDER, ESQ , Dartmouth
F. C. BURMAN, ESQ , Dartmouth
W. F. SHATTOCK, ESQ., Dartmouth
B. LAVERS, ESQ., Dartmouth
C. L. HODGE, ESQ., Dittisham
MRS. E. MELVILLE, Kingswear
R. F. ROWE, ESQ , Totnes
MISS M. E. TOZER, Cornworthy
G R. BENSON, ESQ., Dartmouth

Clerk and Financial Officer :

A. HUGH WRIGHT, ESQ.

Medical Officer of Health :

J. BRODERICK, L.R.S.I., L.R.P.I., L.M.

Port Health Inspector :

A. M. W. CHAPMAN, ESQ.

**Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the
Dartmouth and Totnes Port Sanitary Authority
for the year ending December 31st, 1950.**

To the Chairman and Members.

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with my statutory duties I have the honour to submit to you my 12th Annual Report for the year 1950.

The Port Sanitary District of Dartmouth and Totnes was constituted in the year 1888 by a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board.

In this Order the limits of jurisdiction are thus laid down.

The jurisdiction of the said Port Sanitary Authority shall extend to so much of the said Port of Dartmouth as lies between Totnes Bridge and a line drawn across the entrance to Dartmouth Harbour, from Blackstone Point to the Outer Forward Point, together with the waters of the said Port within such limits and the place or places for the time being appointed as the Customs Boarding Station or Stations for such part of the said Port under any regulations for the prevention of the spread of disease issued under the Authority of the Statutes in that behalf, and the Docks, Basins, Harbours, Creeks, Rivers, Channels, Roads, Bays and Streams belonging to that part of the said Port for which such Authority is constituted as aforesaid.

The chief part of the work under the jurisdiction of this Authority is done at Dartmouth, and consist in examining vessels coming in from Foreign Ports to take bunker coal to enable them to proceed to their Discharging Port. Since the War few vessels have put in here. Vessels bringing coal from Ports discharge at the Kingswear Jetty into trucks to be carried to neighbouring towns for house consumption, and to discharge into the hulks for bunkering purposes.

During the War the timber and ships from Norway and Sweden, which formerly formed a large percentage of the vessels entering the Port for bunkers ceased calling. Some Swedish vessels have again entered the Port for bunkering.

Small vessels bring river sand from up the river to Dartmouth at frequent intervals.

The Discharging Quays in the Port are :—The Embankment, Dartmouth; The Jetty, Kingswear; The Quay, Tuckenhay; The Quay, Stoke Gabriel; The Quay, Totnes.

All ships are inspected by the Sanitary Inspector or myself, though on account of the short stay in harbour of some of the vessels, it has not been practicable to visit every one.

The ships that were visited were, on the whole, clean and well kept.

Water Boats were inspected by the Sanitary Inspector twice during the year. They were cleaned and cement-washed and found satisfactory. Total capacity 60 tons.

TABLE A.

Number of Vessels reported defective ...	11
Number of Vessels reported having had infectious disease on board	1

III.—SOURCE OF WATER SUPPLY

The Water Supply for the port and for the Shipping is the Dartmouth Urban District Supply, and is taken to

the ships in Water Boats, of which there are two under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Their sanitary condition is good and they are cleaned out every six months.

IV.—PORT SANITARY REGULATIONS, 1933.

1. Vessels entering the harbour are boarded by the Customs and Sanitary Inspector when possible, and a declaration of the state of health of those on board is given on the declaration of Health Form handed to the Master by the Pilot, by the Master of the Ship to the Customs or Sanitary Inspector, and if there is any sickness I am informed and proceed to board the ship and make the necessary examination so as to prevent any shipping delay.

2. As above.

3. Wireless is used by in-coming vessels and picked up by the Coast Guard Station and sent on to the Shipping Agents if there is any case of serious illness.

4. The Mooring Stations used to be any part of the harbour below Sandquay Ferry, and in case of serious infectious disease ships would be moored to the Packet Buoys until relieved of its patients and suspects and contacts seen and the ship fumigated.

5. A standing exemption for the purpose of Article 14 (i) has been given for small vessels going up the River to the Creeks and Totnes having on board a case of Tuberculosis or one of the commoner diseases such as Scarlet Fever or Measles, but in the case of the River Dart this exemption is quite unnecessary, as every vessel coming into port has to drop anchor and wait for the spring tides to take them up the River to Totnes. So these vessels are always dealt with before going up.

6. No trouble is experienced in the working of Article 16. If anyone goes on board the ship I find that he makes no

Total Inspections by Port Health Inspector

For the year 1950.

	Class of Vessel	Number of Ships	Tonnage	Number Defective	Number of Defects Remedied
Foreign ...	Steamers...	63	64,171	2	2
	Mtr. Vessels	14	6,288	9	9
	Fishing „	94	1437		
	Yachts ...	43	1094		
Total Foreign ...		214	72,990	11	11
Coastwise...	Steamers...	41	31,969	Nil	Nil
	Mtr. Vessels	23	9,725		
	Fishing „	8	120		
	Yachts ...	Nil	Nil		
Total Coastwise ...		72	41,814	Nil	Nil
GRAND TOTAL					
Foreign and Coastwise		286	114,804	11	11

Vessels Proceeding Up River: to Totnes, 7; Cargoes of Timber. **Passengers :** Arrivals 29; Disembarked 20; Embarked 16; Departures 25.

Water Supply Boats : 1 Large Tug (**Capacity 60 tons.**) Also 1 Small Motor Boat to supply Yachts, **Capacity (2 Tons.)** Both are inspected half-yearly, and found satisfactory (Water Supply is taken from Town's Supply.)

Foreshores : All Foreshores, Quays and Jetties have been inspected and found satisfactory. Defects at Dittisham have been completed. One private drain at Stoke Gabriel have been notified to be extended 6ft.

Sewer Outfalls : One Sewer has been renewed at Dartmouth, leaving 3 still defective, one small leak at Tuckenhay is being taken in hand, otherwise all sewers are satisfactory.

1950

Particulars for Annual Report—Re Ministry's Circular.

Dates of Inspection	Number of Inspections	Nationality of Vessels		Nature of Inspection	Number of Notices Served		Nature of Defect	Classification of Defect	Result of Service of Notice
		British	Others		Statutory	Informal			
1st Jan. '50 to 16th Feb.	36	9	27	General Examination of Crews Quarters, Heads, Store-rooms and Water Supplies. Holds and Bilges are Inspected whenever time and opportunities offer themselves.	Nil	7	Mess Decks required cleaning and drying after bad weather at Sea	(Ordinary) Detrimental to Health	All Notices were complied with and Carried out Satisfactory.
16th Feb. to 31st May	88	28	60		Nil	2	"	"	
31st May to 16th August	51	28	23		Nil	Nil	"	"	
16th August to 2nd Nov.	64	39	25		Nil	Nil	"	"	
2nd Nov. to 31st Dec. inclusive	47	13	34		Nil	2	"	"	
Total for 1950	286	117	169		Nil	11	Ordinary Cleaning	Detrimental to Good Health	

attempt to leave the ship until it has been cleared, especially if Flag Signal "Q" is flying.

7. (a) No premises or waiting rooms for medical examination; the work is done on the ship.

(b) No provision for cleaning and disinfecting ships beyond burning sulphur in infected cabins, etc. No provision for cleansing or disinfecting persons. Clothing and other articles can be disinfected in the Town Disinfector.

(c) No accommodation is provided for cleansing persons.

(d) There is now no Isolation Hospital in Dartmouth. Cases of Smallpox would be sent to the County Smallpox Hospital at Upton Pines, Exeter, and the case of Plague, Yellow Fever and Typhus to the Isolation Hospital, Plymouth. Ordinary Infectious Cases are received at the Isolation Hospital, Paignton.

(e) There is no ambulance for Infectious Diseases in Dartmouth, though in an emergency it would be possible to use the Town Ambulance which, however, would have to be disinfected after use, otherwise the nearest Ambulance would come from Paignton or Torquay.

(f) Contacts residing locally would be supervised by the M.O.H., but contacts going afar would give the M.O.H. their names and destination and the M.O.H. of the different localities would be notified of the circumstances.

8. The County Laboratory at Exeter.

9. The County Laboratory at Exeter.

10. None. The nearest Clinic is Exeter or Plymouth, but the ships do not remain long enough in the Port for either of the Clinics to be available.

11. The matter is left in the hands of the Shipping Agents.

(1) During the year 1950 the following Seamen were treated at Dartmouth and Kingswear Hospital—

1 Case of Bronchitis and Pleurisy (a Coloured man).

On day after admission to Hospital he developed a rash which had to be treated as suspected Small Pox. He was removed to Isolation Hospital and all contacts vaccinated within two days. After tests this case revealed itself as Chicken Pox.

2. TREATED AT SURGERY AT HOSPITAL AS OUT-PATIENT OR ON BOARD SHIP—

	No.
(a) Venereal Disease	14
(b) Gastritis	3
(c) Injury to Knee	2
(d) Injury to Back	1
(e) Foreign body in Eye	1
(f) Otitis Media	2
(g) Inflamed Hand	1

TABLE C

Cases of Infectious Disease, 1950.

1 Chicken Pox.

TABLE D

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels
 during the voyage but disposed of before
 arrival Nil

 MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

1. None.
2. Mooring Rope Discs.
3. (a) None. (b) None.
4. None.
5. Nothing done.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT OF 1919.

Nothing at present is done in this matter, as vessels come into the Port for bunker coal, or in convoy and remain only a few hours. They lie in mid-stream and being moored to the hulks, there is no communication with the shore, and proceed to sea after refuelling and in convoy, so there is little opportunity for rats being destroyed as Dartmouth is not a discharging Port and the vessels are chiefly loaded with cargo. Therefore, I cannot advise the Authority to contemplate the acquisition of costly plant for the purpose of pumping gas into ships under the foregoing conditions, cylinders of sulphur dioxide or tins of sulphur for burning in cases where it is possible to get at the rat runs are provided for use.

Dartmouth is not an Approved Port under the Aliens Order, 1920. Therefore there is no Medical Inspection of Aliens.

RATS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR 1950.

TABLE E

(i) On Vessels

No. of Rats Jan Feb Mar Apr May June Jly Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Black	}	NIL
Brown		
Species not		
recorded		
Examined		
Infected	}	
with Plague		

TABLE F

(ii) In Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses.

No. of Rats Jan Feb Mar Apr May June Jly Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

NIL.

TABLE J.

CLASSIFICATION OF NUISANCES

Defects of Original Construction—Nil

Structural defects through wear and tear—Nil.

Dirt and Vermin—Nil.

FOOD INSPECTION.

1. No action has been taken under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulation, 1925; the Public Health (Imported Food) Amendment Regulations, 1933; the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926; the Public Health (Preservations, &c.) in Food Regulations, 1927; as no importation takes place.

2. There are no shell-fish beds or layings within the jurisdiction of the Port Sanitary's Authority.

3. Number of samples of food examined by :—

(a) Bacteriologist	None
(b) Analyst	None

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) JOSEPH BRODERICK,

L.R.C.P.I., L.R.C.S.I., L.M.

Port Medical Officer of Health.

